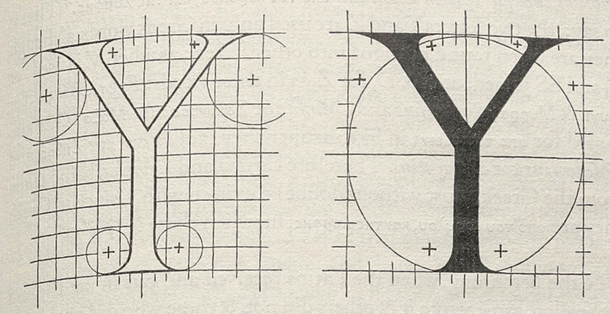
and S, and sometimes to G and S, as we see in the declension of these nouns & their like: *Apex apicis, Grex gregis.* In times past, the Latins, before they had borrowed from the Greeks the letter X,—which, be it said, is different in form, for it resembles the Greek *Chi,* and not Ξι—wrote for X the said letters C S and G S in this wise—*Apecs apicis, Regs regis, Nucs nucis,* and *Gregs, gregis,* as I saw in Rome, in divers ancient epitaphs, and as anyone can still see in the book of Epitaphs of Ancient Rome, printed in that city when I dwelt there.

WHEN the monosyllabic preposition *Ex* is combined with words beginning with S, the S cannot be written and is not to be pronounced, because three consonants may not stand together; as *Ex* and *sequor, exequor;* witness Priscian in the first book and the passage above cited, where he says: *Nunquam enim* S *nec alia consonans geminari potest alia antecedente consonante.* Never, he says, can S or any other consonant be doubled after another consonant. For which reason X, being a double consonant, cannot suffer S to follow it. Which rule many writers do not observe, for lack of paying due attention thereto.

I Find many men who err in the proper pronunciation of X, when, in such words as *Exaro, Exerceo, exequor,* and a thousand others written with the preposition *Ex,* they say *yeux,* pronouncing *yeuxaro, yeuxerceo, yeuxequor;* which is a great fault in the Latin tongue. If they would learn to pronounce rightly, following the rules of the excellent authors above-named, they should pronounce the words as if they were spelled *Ecsaro, Ecserceo, Ecsequor,* and then they will pronounce them very well.

MAY it not be displeasing to them, & to all other nations, that I speak of their faulty pronunciations; but let them reflect that what I do is done to serve the public good, and to admonish them to accustom themselves to pronounce properly, which is one of the most laudable things that can be observed in every language & in every speaking man.

THE Italians too, under correction, seem to me to err therein; for they make the letter thin & soft, as if they were pronouncing an S between two vowels, which has not so great force as Sigma between two vowels. If they wish to say, *Uxor mea sicut vitis abundans,* or *Exequias patris exequar,* they pronounce the words as if they were spelt, *Usor mea,* or *Esequias patris esequar.*



THE letter Ypsilon, here drawn, & fashioned from the I alone, is as broad at the head as it is high, & at the foot is of the exact breadth of the foot of the said I. And to be duly made it requires six turns of the compass, for which I have marked the places where the point of the compass must be set. This letter Y is called in Greek Υ ψιλον, that is to say, in Latin, Y *tenue,** & in French, Y that should be given a soft sound, or, as Martianus Capella says, pronounced *appressis labris spirituque procedens,* that is to say, proceeding & issuing between the lips with the breath. It is properly a Greek letter, & the Latins appropriated it, to write only those Greek words in which it requires to be written and pronounced. We use it, not only in words which we have taken from the Greek, as *Ypocrite, Ypocrisye, Physique, Metaphysique,* & many other similar ones, but in our French words, too, as when we say, 'Enfans sans soucy;' 'En esmoy ne sont jamais;' 'Et pourquoy?' 'Bon temps les meyne;' 'A tout joyeulx soulas'—*Soucy, Esmoy, Quoy, Meyne,* and *Ioyeulx.* In like manner, innumerable other French words are written with Ypsilon, which may be to us a manifest proof that the Greek letters were current here before the Latin. The Latins, as I have said, did not use Ypsilon, or Zeta, and do not use them now, unless in words which they have borrowed from the Greeks. Witness Priscian, who says at the end of the chapter *De literarum commutatione,* in his first book: *Ypsilon et Zeta tantummodo ponuntur in Græcis dictionibus, quamvis in multis veteres hæc quoque mutasse inveniuntur, et pro* Y, V; *pro* Z, *vero quod pro* SS *conjunctis accipitur, vel pro* S *et* D *posuisse: ut* Fuga, Murrha, *pro* Φυγη, Μυρρα; Sagunthus, Maſſa, *pro* Ζακυνθος, Μαζα; *Odor quoque* απο του οζειν; Sethus *pro* Ζηθος *dicentes, et* Medentius *pro* Mezentius. *Ergo* Corylus *et* Lympha *ex ipsa scriptura a Græcis sumpta non est*

*He means that the Greek ψιλος and the Latin tenuis are synonymous.